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# THE COMET.

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THIRTY-FOURTH YEAR

JOHNSON CITY, TENNESSEE, SATURDAY JUNE 29, 1918

WHOLE NO. 1752

## RENEWAL OF DRIVE IN FRANCE EXPECT'D

### MILITARY MEN LOOK FOR OFFENSIVE BY HUNS SOON

Experts Anticipate Blow From Germans On Western Front--Exact Sector in Doubt

With the return of almost normal conditions on the Italian front and with no indications apparent that it is the intention of the Austrians in the immediate future to launch another stroke against General Diaz's army the eyes of the world are being centered once more in expectancy on the battle area in France and Flanders as the possible theatre of early encounters on a large scale.

This expectancy is heightened by the entrance of David Lloyd George, the British prime minister, in the house of commons Monday, when he said another enemy attack might be looked for, possibly within a few hours and certainly within the next few days—a blow on which the issue of the campaign might depend—rather than by any outward signs of great preparations by the Germans to loose their armies for another attempt at the capture of Paris or the channel ports.

Although the infantry operations, except by the Americans in the Belleau wood, have scarcely risen in importance above patrol encounters recently, nevertheless the Germans are trying out with their artillery the stability of the British and French positions on various sectors from Flanders to the region of the Marne. Southwest of Arras, on the river Lys sector, and between Ghieny and Robecq, the British lines have been heavily shelled with guns of all calibres and with considerable numbers of gas projectiles. The French have been receiving similar visitations between the Oise and Aisne rivers, especially in the region north of Villiers Coterets, where the recent German offensive reached its greatest depth in its attempted dash to Paris.

When or where the next offensive is to be launched cannot be foretold but it is expected that it will be started and carried out in an ambitious manner, for it seemingly is realized that time is now working against German arms in the west and that haste is necessary. This fact apparently is being deeply impressed on the German high command, especially as it daily is witnessing the arrival of increasing numbers of Americans on the battlefield and is coming to realize that they are foemen of the highest merit.

China is making contributions toward the six Y. M. C. A. huts that are maintained in France for the Chinese labor Army.

#### FORM BATTALION TO DEVELOPE MEN

In accordance with recent orders from Washington a "development battalion" is now being organized in the 81st Division at Camp Sevier, the purpose of the organization being to develop men not now fully qualified for general military service and to make good soldiers out of them.

Major LeRoy Reeves, who has been in command of the casual battalion, is put in charge of the development battalion, according to announcement at camp headquarters yesterday, and the casual battalion, it is expected, will probably be gradually merged into the development battalion. The casual battalion is composed mostly of men of the 30th Division who were left. Maj. Reeves is an old Tennessee National Guard officer. He is originally from Johnson City and was some years ago an officer in the old Third Tennessee Infantry. He was sent to Camp Sevier not long ago to assume command of the casual battalion.

#### To Develop Unfit Men

The purpose of the development battalion, as set forth in the general orders from Washington for the organizations of these units is to relieve divisions replacement organizations, etc., of all unfit men; to conduct intensive training with a view to developing unfit men for duty with combatant or non-combatant forces, either in the United States or elsewhere, and to promptly rid the service of all men who after thorough trial and examination are found physically, mentally or morally incapable of discharging the duties of a soldier.

The development battalion is to be under the supervision of the camp commander, and is an adjunct of the depot brigade.

When an enlisted man is inapt, or does not possess the required degree of adaptability for military service, or gives evidence of habits or traits of character other than those for which trial by court martial should be employed that renders his service undesirable in any of the regular organizations, or when an enlisted man is disqualified physically and is not subject to immediate discharge, he is transferred to the development battalion, and there is given training adapted to fit his particular needs, in addition to medical treatment, etc., in cases where it is needed the object being to develop him if possible into

### AN EXPONENT OF AMERICANISM

"YE SERPENTS, YE GENERATION OF VIPERS HOW CAN YE ESCAPE THE DAMNATION OF HELL."

All our business and domestic life has been upset; all our fond anticipations for the future of loved ones must now be supplanted by the ever-present realization of their danger, their certain sufferings and their possible death; sorrow and anguish are everywhere, the nation is in turmoil, a land of peace has been suddenly transformed into a war machine; the daily toll of death grows steadily longer and soon will be doubled and quadrupled and requadrupled; sorrow and breaking hearts are everywhere.

And why all this suffering and sorrow, why these breaking hearts, why this awful toll of death and disease?

Because Germany for the aggrandisement of its autocratic, despotic rulers, and for the wealth to come from looting the world, for years definitely planned to turn this peaceful world into a hell of woe. Cold-bloodedly these murderers set about their plans for a war upon their neighbors, intending when they had been destroyed to push across the sea and conquer America. They even planned the terms for exploiting Canada, which was to be one of the indemnities to be paid by England.

The whole world has thus been turned into a mighty armed camp; millions have been killed and millions have been maimed; the blind, armless, the legless will soon be in evidence all over the land as they are in England and France and Italy.

Millions have died of hunger and hundreds of millions have felt the pinching power of an ever-decreasing food supply; hundreds of millions have for nearly four years lived in agony of heart as by day and by night their ears are ever strained for the dreaded word of the death of some loved one.

For years our Allies endured horrors surpassing the wildest flight of Dante's imagination as he pictured the Inferno, and day after day, month after month, from their bleeding hearts went forth the never-ceasing cry: "How long, O Lord, how long will America sleep on in fancied security?"

And why have our Allies thus suffered and why must we now give our millions, the very flower of our civilization, to endure these sufferings and death in all its fearful battlefield forms?

Because William, the accursed, and all Germany—not the military leaders only, but all Germany—set out on a prearranged campaign to murder millions in order to enrich themselves by looting the world.

These murderers, these looters, these outragers destroyed womanhood, slew hostages, shot down innocent civilians, to protect themselves from the soldiers of the Allies placed women and children in advance of their fighting line, poisoned wells, spread disease germs, all for the purpose of making their predetermined plan of "frightfulness" their greatest weapon to make nations tremble before the very thought of arousing German hostility. And all this for their own personal enrichment and planned out for many years.

At last, thank God, America is awake, and never again will it slumber until those who have created this hell on earth have paid the full penalty of their crimes.

And Jesus said—

"YE SERPENTS, YE GENERATION OF VIPERS HOW CAN YE ESCAPE THE DAMNATION OF HELL."  
RICHARD H. EDMONDS, In Manufactures Record.

### U. S. DIVISION IN FRANCE GROWS TO ARMY OF MILLION

Washington, June 25.—The first division of the American army landed in France one year ago, eighteen days after General Pershing reached French soil. In twelve months that have since elapsed this division has grown to an army and by July a million men will have been sent forward.

Behind this million, another million men are equipped in camps and cantonments, and a third million will rapidly fill up the gaps left at home as the divisions sail for the front.

The first division has now been expanded to a fighting force of 650,000 men, backed by an organization of the supply and transport lines that it takes 250,000 men to make effective.

On this basis it is clear that General Pershing now has under his command the substance of the first field army, comprised of eighteen infantry divisions with all necessary auxiliary troops. So far as known, there has been no opportunity yet for the actual formation of this army as a military unit, but the day probably is not distant when it will be possible for General Pershing to assemble his first army.

American troops are now holding sectors in at least six places on the battle line. To meet the emergency presented by the German drive, however they have been drawn away from the region formerly assigned to the United States and are face to face with the enemy on the Marne, in Picardy and Flanders.

The real American sectors, however lie on the right flank of the great battlefront. From within sight of the Swiss border where they stand on German soil, almost to Verdun, American troops are in the trenches.

The location of the strictly American sectors makes it appear that the United States has been assigned the task of holding the right flank, as British armies hold the left, leaving France free to concentrate in the center along the road to Paris.

#### INSURANCE

So far more than 3,000,000,000 Government checks have been set out by the Bureau of War-Risk Insurance most of which were for allotments and allowances to the families and dependents of the enlisted men in the army and navy. The total disbursements of the bureau up to June 10 were more than \$98,000,000, of which \$97,000,000 was for allotments and allowances.

More than \$50,000 checks a month are sent out, approximately 35,000 being mailed out every day. The first checks for the June allotments will be sent out on July 1, just as the first May payments began on June 1. Relatives and dependents of the insured men should remember that the payments for any month can not be mailed out sooner than the first day of the succeeding month.

#### MOVIES FOLLOW THE ARMY

Back of the French lines 400 "projection posts" have been established by the Y. M. C. A. where motion pictures are shown to the soldiers. These posts are moved as the divisions or regiment moves.

#### FOOD ADMINISTRATION SUGAR PLAN

Nashville, June 26.—The following statement was issued by Federal Food Administrator Morgan:

A number of causes have cumulated to make our sugar position more difficult than we could have anticipated at the beginning of the year. The increased shipping needed by our growing Army in France has necessitated the curtailment of sugar transportation, particularly from the longer voyage, and has thus reduced supplies both to the Allies and ourselves from remote markets. Some of the accessible sugar producing areas have proved a less yield than was anticipated, such as certain West Indian Islands. The domestic beet and Louisiana crops have fallen below anticipation. There has been some destruction of beet sugar factories in the battle area of France and Italy. We have lost considerable sugar by submarines.

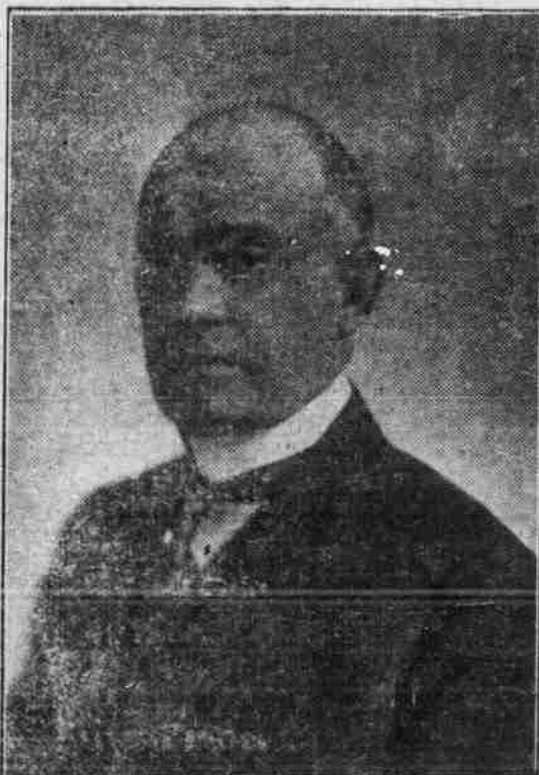
As close an estimate as we can make indicates a reasonable expectation from all sources of about 1,600,000 tons of sugar for United States consumption during the last half of the present year. This is based upon the maintenance of the present meagre Allied ration. An improvement in shipping conditions would of course relieve this situation as quantities of sugar are in unavailable markets. We must, however, base the distribution of sugar during the next six months, upon the above footing. After that period the West Indian crop will be available.

This supply of 1,600,000 tons necessitates a considerable reduction in our consumption. To provide three pounds of sugar per month per person for household use, to take care of our Army and Navy and to provide for the necessary preservation of fruit, milk, etc., will require about 1,500,000 tons of sugar for the next six months. A household consumption of three pounds per month per person, together with the special allowance for home canning means a reduction of some 25 per cent in these branches of consumption from normal but it is still nearly double the ration in the Allied countries and is ample for every economical use.

In the plan of distributing which will now go into force, the less essential users of sugar—this, confectioners, soft drink manufacturers, tobacco manufacturers, etc., etc., will be hit the hardest. The administration regrets intensely any action that will cause hardship to any individual, but the situation is due to the Germans, not to this Government. There are a number of substitutes available to the confectioners upon which no restrictions are placed.

In order to secure justice in distribution and to make the restrictive plans as effective as possible no manufacturer or wholesaler of sugar will be allowed after July 1st to sell any sugar except to buyers who secure a certificate from the local Food Administrators, indicating the quantity they may buy. For the purpose of issuing these certificates the various

(Continued on Page Two)



Hon. Austin Peay

Democratic Candidate For Governor of Tennessee.

a good soldier, and if this is not possible, to eliminate him from the military service.

#### Will Grow Gradually

The development battalion, therefore, will be an organization that will gradually grow in size as additional men are assigned to it. It is in keeping with the policy of the army to make good soldiers out of disqualified or defective men, if possible, and to do so under favorable circumstances and without permitting these men, while undergoing training and development to retard the training work of the regular organizations.

Some interesting training work, looking to the curing of various physical defects, it is understood, is planned for the work in the Camp Sevier development battalion.

#### FORMER RUSSIAN CZAR KILLED BY RED GUARDS

Copenhagen, June 25.—Russian Red Guards have broken into the residence of Nicholas Romanoff, the former Russian Emperor at Ekaterinburg and murdered him, according to the Russian newspaper Vjia, says a Stockholm dispatch to the National Tidende.

Geneva, June 27.—The Ukraine bureau at Lausanne announced today it has received confirmation of the report that the Bolshevik authorities at Yekaterinburg condemned Nicholas Romanoff, the former Russian emperor to death after a short trial and then shot him. Details of the reported execution are lacking.

#### SENATE AGREE ON NATIONAL PROHIBITION

Washington, June 27.—The senate agriculture committee today agreed upon amendment to the \$111,000,000 emergency agricultural appropriation bill providing for national prohibition.

Under the amendment the manufacture and sale of whiskey and wine would be prohibited after June 30, 1919, and the manufacturers and sale of beer three months after the final approval of the bill by the President.

#### EXPECT MARTIAL LAW IN AUSTRIA HUNGARY

Paris June 27.—(Havas Agency)—Swiss dispatches received here today say that owing to the seriousness of the food situation in Austria-Hungary martial law is expected momentarily to be proclaimed throughout the empire.

### OUR PLEDGE!

W. S. S.

To devote the columns of the Comet to the National service by doing everything we can, in every way we can, to help win this war.

H. W. Lyle, Publisher